EXCISE

INCOMING TELEGRAM **Department of State** ACTION COPY

PERMANENT RECORD COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

45
Action

Control: 12574
Rec'd: May 19, 1961
2:25 p.m.

E
Info
L
H
EUR
P
USIA
INR
CIA
NSA
CAB
COM
FAA
RMR

FROM: Brussels

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1948, May 19, 5 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY D. ZACHARY DATE 2/18/83
RDS☐or XDS☐EXE. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☒ IN PART EO 12356 #552(b)(1)
PA or FOI EXEMPTION(S) 1.3(a)(5)

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1948; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 476

PARIS PASS CIVIL AIR ATTACHE

Department telegram 2268.

Belgians were informed in February that CAB ready assist if requested officially. Reaction at time was that under ICAO rules country in which plane crash occurred competent to run own investigation. Must be remembered that offer made at time when Belgian press criticizing aeronautical authorities for allowing FBI into case, wrongly interpreted to mean FBI investigating crash whereas in fact was doing excellent job identifying bodies. [redacted] #552(b)(1) 1.3(a)(5)

Boeing permanent technical representative Brussels Hummel had notified Embassy that Nottet had gone to Seattle where he had direct contacts with CAB and FAA safety officials. Nottet carried full report technical investigation with him, seeking CAB help in unravelling case. [redacted] #552(b)(1) 1.3(a)(5)

Hummel, who also still performing investigations on control functioning of crashed 707, has found no reason for accident, believes chances slim that he will.

Embassy has

955.725/5-1961

FILED

CONFIDENTIAL

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

• This copy must be returned to RM/R central files with notation of action taken •

ACTION ASSIGNED TO	E/TRC/AV	ACTION TAKEN	Telegram drafted 5/25/61
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL	GPVarroe AV	DATE OF ACTION	5/25/61
		DIRECTIONS TO RM/R	File

DECLASSIFIED

Embassy has continued to contact all available sources to determine possible accident causes. Result to date is that cause is unknown. Contrary to rumors circulating shortly after crash February 15, seems definite that no radio transmissions other than those known to investigators occurred before crash.

Embassy strongly recommends that CAB and FAA assist in investigation of accident as requested by GOB.

1. To refuse after GOB formal request for assistance would be unfriendly in view of our earlier offer of assistance and our continued manifestation of interest in case.

2. Despite disadvantage of entering case three months later, US experts might conceivably be able through inspection aircraft components, site, et cetera, adduce additional information. In interests general air safety no chance should be overlooked.

3. Any help rendered now will make GOB much more likely to invite CAB and FAA assistance in event future Sabena crash. [redacted]

4. [redacted]

E #552
(b)(1)
EO 12356
1.3(a)(5)
1.5(a)(5)

MACARTHUR

SMD:JVC/14

DECLASSIFIED